

Appl. No. : 09/228,325
Filed : January 11, 1999

II. REMARKS

Claims 1, 2 and 4-18 are currently pending in the application. The Office Action rejected Claims 1, 2 and 4-18. By the foregoing amendments, Applicant amended Claim 14 to further clarify the claimed invention and expedite receiving a notice of allowance. Pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.121(f), no new matter is introduced by these amendments. Applicant believes that Claims 1, 2 and 4-18 are now in condition for allowance.

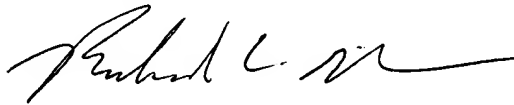
CONCLUSION

In view of the foregoing, Applicant submits that Claims 1, 2 and 4-18 are allowable over the cited references and are in condition for allowance. Accordingly, Applicant requests that a Notice of Allowance be promptly issued.

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If any further impediments to allowance of this application remain, the Examiner is cordially invited to contact the undersigned by telephone so that these remaining issues may be promptly resolved.

Respectfully submitted,



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